

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, held on March 16, 2023, at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Hall at 1768 Main Street. Port Norris, NJ

Those Present:

Mike Vizzard	Mayor
Fletcher Jamison	Deputy Mayor
Joseph Klaudi	Committeeman
Gabrielle Horseman	Deputy Clerk
Thomas Seeley	Solicitor
Nick DiCosmo	Engineer
Clint Miller	Public Works Supervisor
Pam Humphries	CFO

Absent:	Heather Miller	Township Clerk
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Mayor Vizzard presided and called the meeting to order with the announcement that the meeting had been advertised, it was being electronically recorded and being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

Mayor Vizzard asked the attendees to join him in the flag salute and the Lord's Prayer.

No State Police present to give a report.

Mayor Vizzard said we will go to the meeting minutes of the previous meetings. The minutes of the agenda meeting, February 13, 2023, the Regular meeting of February 16, 2023, and the Executive meeting of February 16, 2023. Mayor asked for a motion to approve. Motion made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi. Roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mayor Vizzard asked for the Engineers report.

Nick DiCosmo- Port Norris riverfront improvements phase III- All the documentation has been submitted for the replacement of the Miller Avenue bridge and Berry Ave. tide gate. The CAFRA permit is posted to the bulletin for March for a 30-day comment period. Once that is over, I believe we will be issued permits in April, and I've gotten together with my structural team to get together the final design of the bridge and bulkhead for the tide gate. As long as everything goes well, I'm looking at summer, early fall construction.

Plan Endorsement- Ongoing. Spoke to Meghan Wren this week, she would like a list of township projects that fit in with resiliency. I believe that is for the workshop on the 23rd. Meghan indicated that there would be significant funding opportunities.

Mill and Overlay of Main St.- Spoke to the County Engineer, everything is on track for a Shared Service Agreement between the township and Cumberland County. This will probably be another summer/fall construction. We will look to do some traffic calming in the form of using

traffic striping to narrow the lanes going through town, adding high visibility striped traffic crosswalks and we will look into some kind of powered speed warning signs. Hopefully, with all that combined, it will help with the speeding issue.

North Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Path – We have a proposal on for approval this week where we will propose to construct a 5-foot-wide path around the township ball fields and up to the intersection of Highland and North Ave. as part of phase I. Phase II, in the future will apply for funds would be to connect from there up to the school to make a continuous path from the school to the ballfields.

Gas company paving in Laurel Lake- Will resume next week, March 20th. We will have an inspector out there to oversee that work.

Possible water and sewer for Laurel Lake- Proposal for the I- Bank for funding assistance to meet with the state to look into the grants that are available for possible construction of water and sewer in Laurel Lake.

Mayor Vizzard asked Nick about the bulkhead for Mauricetown park.

Nick DiCosmo- We submitted an application for the Local Recreation improvement grant. They still have not notified the grant recipients yet.

Mayor Vizzard- I also spoke with the Environmental Committee on Tuesday night regarding wanting them to help us with the resiliency in the township. They all agreed with that. I spoke with Pam Humphries, our CFO, and she agreed to be on that committee also.

Nick DiCosmo- Anything that has to do with resiliency, bulkheads, raising roads, or stormwater infrastructure, all those kinds of projects.

Mayor Vizzard – We need the residents of Commercial Township to understand what this resiliency is all about. It's going to help with flood insurance. It's going to help with what was considered a flood plain, it will help determine what needs to be declared a flood plain. We are trying not to have all these areas that the DEP is claiming to be a flood hazard area. We don't believe that every area that they claim is a flood hazard area, but it doesn't mean that is isn't going to be. We are fighting against that; we want to make everyone aware of that.

Mayor Vizzard moved to correspondence.

Received a letter from Walter Lovenick of 7093 James Moore Road. He states that he has been hunting on township property for 30 years and is now seeking permission from the township to hunt this property. The location is 1295 North Ave., across from the school.

Mayor Vizzard- It has been brought to our attention that we should not allow him to hunt there because it puts the township and township residents in jeopardy for him hunting there, should anything happen. I'm not sure why he is seeking permission, is Mr. Lovenick here tonight? I'm not sure why he is asking now after 30 years. I'm going to say that we should deny

him permission to hunt this property based on the condition that it's going to bring the township up responsibilities that the township should not be responsible for.

Solicitor Seeley- You can't put anything in writing if that's what he wants.

Mayor Vizzard- My recommendation is No; he should not be hunting there. Do I have a decision from the rest of the committee?

Committeeman Klaudi- I agree, it's a liability.

Pam Humphries- You should send a letter telling him not to do it.

Mayor Vizzard- Yes, we need to generate a letter, you are right. I honestly feel bad for this guy, he has been hunting this property for 30 years, maybe he never realized it was township property. I really don't know but he can't ask us to take responsibility. Can I get a motion to send him a letter denying him access to the property?

Committeeman Klaudi made a motion and was seconded by Committeeman Jamison. Roll call, all were in favor.

Mayor Vizzard- Correspondence from Remington and Vernick requesting final payment certificate #2 to be considered for Reconstruction of Brown Street in the amount of \$9,912.15 to Asphalt Paving Systems. Do we have a decision on that?

Committeeman Klaudi made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Committeeman Jamison. Roll call, all were in favor.

Engineer Nick DiCosmo- I just want to note that the contract did come in under.

Mayor Vizzard- Yes, it did come in a couple thousand under.

Mayor Vizzard- We have an ordinance for second reading and adoption. Ordinance 2023-615, An ordinance of the Township of Commercial, County of Cumberland, New Jersey, providing for the use of funds for the Township Municipal Building to undergo renovations for Covid Mitigation and general upgrades. Mayor asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. A motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi. Mayor asked if anyone from the public wished to discuss this ordinance. With no-one, Mayor asked for a motion to close public portion. Committeeman Klaudi made the motion and was seconded by Committeeman Jamison. Mayor asked for a motion to adopt ordinance 2023-615 for Covid Mitigation and general upgrades to the municipal building. A motion was made by Committeeman Klaudi and seconded by Committeeman Jamison, roll call, all were in favor.

Mayor Vizzard moved to Resolutions.

RESOLUTION 2023-33
Authorizing A Green Team Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial strives to save tax dollars, assure clean air and water, improve working and living environments to build a community that is sustainable economically, environmentally and socially; a community which would thrive well into the new century; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of Commercial Township wishes to build a model of government which benefits our residents now and far into the future with green community initiatives which are easy to implement; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to focus attention on “Green” issues, the Township Committee wishes to reconfirm a Green Team Advisory Committee (GTA); and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial wants to begin the process of focusing “Green” issues by continuing audit of municipality facilities and operations.

WHEREAS, solar power, changes to fleet purchasing and maintenance, water quality improvements, and operational changes will all be considered as the Township moves to do their share to lessen the environmental impacts of its operation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of Commercial Township that we do hereby reconfirm a Green Team Advisory Committee consisting of members who shall be residents or employees of Commercial Township.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Collaborate with township employees, service providers and other governmental agencies to share resource information and ideas consistent with the mission of the GTA.
2. Encourage participation of all employees to solicit ideas on green initiatives.
3. Research and analyze green initiatives which make practical environmental and financial operations.
4. Develop strategies for sustainable green initiatives in municipal operations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that the following persons are hereby appointed to the GTA for the remainder of 2023 and are eligible to serve until replacement through an updated resolution or ordinance:

John Dayton

Katie Dayton
Lorraine Shards

Peter Manzelman

Pat Smith

Dustin Piccolo-Kinsey

RESOLUTION 2023-34
2022 COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 1987, c has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, The recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, A resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the 2022 Recycling Tonnage Grant will memorize the commitment of this municipality to recycle and to indicate the asset of the Committee of the Township of Commercial to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, Such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of Commercial that hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection by Heather Miller, CRP of Commercial Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purpose of recycling.

Resolution offered by: Committeeman Jamison

Resolution certified by Heather Miller

RESOLUTION 2023-35
A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING SUBMISSION OF EXPENDITURES FOR
RECYCLING ENHANCEMENT ACT

WHEREAS, The Recycling Enhancement act, P.L. 2007, chapter 311, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grants may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, there is levied upon the owner or operator of every solid waste facility (with certain exceptions) a recycling tax of \$3.00 per ton on all solid waste accepted for disposal or transfer at the solid waste facility; and

WHEREAS, whenever a municipality operates a municipal service system for solid waste collection or provides for regular solid waste collection service under a contract

awarded pursuant to "Local Public Contracts Law," the amount of grant monies received by the municipality shall not be less than the annual amount of recycling tax paid by the municipality except that all grant moneys received by the municipality shall be expended only for its recycle program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of Commercial that Commercial Township hereby certifies a submission of expenditure for taxes paid pursuant to P.L. 2007, chapter 311, in 2022 in the amount of \$6,855.63. Documentation supporting this submission is available at 1768 Main Street, Port Norris N.J. 08349 and shall be maintained for no less than five years from this date.

Tax Calculation Certified By: _____
Pamela Humphries, Chief Financial Officer

RESOLUTION 2023-36

Awarding Contract to Straga Brothers for Municipal Building Renovations in the Amount of \$133,700.00

WHEREAS, The Township Municipal Building is in need of upgrades and renovations; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Commercial went out to bid the Municipal Building Renovations Project; and

WHEREAS, bids were received on January 26, 2023, with Straga Brothers, being the lowest bidder.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that a proposal of \$133,700.00 is approved and certification of chief financial officer is contained in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, funds for certification are therefore being made available as follows:

Capital Improvement Fund:	Balance	98,710.69	
	Amount Certified		76,000.00
	Remaining Balance	22,710.69	
ARP Unappropriated Grant Reserve:	Balance	348,150.61	
	Amount Certified		57,700.00
	Remaining Balance	290,450.61	
Total Amount Certified			\$133,700.00

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that a contract be awarded to Straga Brothers of Glassboro, NJ, for the Municipal Building Renovations in the amount of \$133,700.00.

RESOLUTION 2023-37

Adopting Policy and Procedure for Demolitions and Unsafe Structures

WHEREAS, Commercial Township has many abandoned homes that may be deemed hazardous or that are beyond repair; and

WHEREAS, Commercial Township through the In Rem Foreclosure Process has and continues to take ownership to structures that may be deemed unsafe or require demolition.

WHEREAS, The Construction Official has drafted Policy and Procedure as well as a checklist of requirements for handling of such structures.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that the committee approves the Policy, Procedure and checklist for Demolitions and Unsafe structures as part of township policy effective March 16, 2023.

RESOLUTION 2023-38

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2020-June 2025

FORM 1B

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Township Council of Commercial Township, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Cumberland;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Commercial of, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Commercial Township Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of:
DEDR \$ 4,658.00
Cash Match \$ 1,164.50
In-Kind \$ 3,493.50
2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: _____
Mike Vizzard, Mayor

RESOLUTION 2023-39
Approving Proposal of Remington & Vernick Engineers
For 2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program
North Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements- Phase 1

WHEREAS, Commercial Township has been awarded \$291,150.00 for North Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements through the 2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program.

WHEREAS, Remington & Vernick Engineers will provide preliminary engineering services for this project for a lump sum of \$14,550.00

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that a proposal of \$14,550.00 is approved and certification of chief financial officer is contained in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, funds for certification are therefore being made available as follows:

2023 NJDOT Grant North Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvement

Account # G-02-41-875-000	\$291,150.00
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Total Amount Certified	\$14,550.00
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Balance in Account	\$276,600.00
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RESOLUTION 2023-40
Approving Proposal of Remington & Vernick Engineers
For 2023 NJEIT Application Support for Laurel Lake Water and Sewer.

WHEREAS funds for Commercial Township have been allocated through the

Municipal Purposes excluded from “CAPS”:

Operations	511,417.40
Capital Improvements	40,000.00
Municipal Debt Service	180,876.20
Transferred to Board of Education	6,547.00
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	<u>554,844.62</u>
Total General Appropriations	3,988,686.22
Less: Anticipated Revenues	<u>2,253,447.36</u>
Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Amount to be Raised by Taxation	<u>\$1,735,238.86</u>

Date Adopted: March 16, 2023

RESOLUTION 2023-42

Vacate A Judgment of Foreclosure for
Block 26, Lot 4272, 4273 & 4274

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial, County of Cumberland as follows:

WHEREAS, it having been determined that the property located at Block 26, Lots 4272, 4273 & 4274 also known as 349 Fern Road assessed to Michael Bonanno (at the time of the foreclosure) was foreclosed on by the Township of Commercial through an In Rem Foreclosure Docket #F-018940-18 using Certificate #11-00016. Final Judgment was received on January 10, 2019.

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of the township by the current owner, Shore Management Co of Delaware Valley II that the deeds for Block 26, Lots 4269, 4270 & 4271, 343 Fern Road were combined with Block 26, Lots 4272, 4273 & 4274, 349 Fern Road creating a change in the lot line designation. Said residence is sitting across all referenced lot lines. It was determined the easiest method to correct the title for ownership purposes for lots 4272, 4273 & 4274 was to vacate the final judgment on these lots to allow the current owner Shore Management Co of Delaware Valley II to redeem the lien and accept financial responsibility for the cost of the vacate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee for the Township of Commercial authorizes the Township Solicitor to file the proper documents with the Superior Court to vacate the judgement as stated above and the Tax Collector to accept redemption for Certificate #11-00016.

RESOLUTION 2023-43

Change Order #1- Final for Reconstruction of Brown Street

WHEREAS, the Township of Commercial was awarded a FY 2022 N.J.D.O.T. grant for the Reconstruction of Brown Street and

WHEREAS, a contract was awarded to Asphalt Paving Systems, NJ in the amount of \$342,400.00

WHEREAS, Change Order #1-Final causing a reduction in the amount of \$2,028.22 for As-built construction quantities for various contract items that will affect the following line items of the Chief Financial Officer:

2022 NJDOT Reconstruction of Brown Street
G-02-41-865-001

Present Balance in Account	\$	11,940.37
Change Order #1 Reduction	\$	2,028.22-
Payment Certificate Asphalt Paving	\$	<u>9,912.15-</u>
Balance Remaining in Account		\$0.00

RESOLUTION 2023-44 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2023 COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT III BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Commercial Township Fire District III held their annual election on February 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Commercial Township Fire District III budget was defeated and;

WHEREAS, members of the Township Committee of Commercial Township met with the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Commercial Township Fire District III to discuss the 2023 Budget; and

WHEREAS, concessions made to the Commercial Township Fire District III 2023 Proposed Budget are as follows.

Budget Category	Line Item	Original Budget	Reduction	Final Budget
COST OF OPER & MAINT - OTHER	Fuel	\$35,000	\$1,000	\$34,000

BE IT RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Director of Local Governmental Services, the CFO, Board of Fire Commissioners of the Commercial Township Fire District III.

RESOLUTION 2023-45
Approving Proposal of Remington & Vernick Engineers
For 2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program
North Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements- Phase 1

WHEREAS, Commercial Township has been awarded \$291,150.00 for North Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements through the 2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program.

WHEREAS, Remington & Vernick Engineers will provide professional engineering design and construction phase services for this project for a lump sum of \$ 50,500.00

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Commercial that proposal of \$50,500.00 is approved and certification of chief financial officer is contained in the resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, funds for certification will be made available in the Commercial Township 2023 municipal budget upon adoption as follows:

2023 NJDOT Grant North Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvement		
Account # G-02-41-875-000	Balance in Account	\$276,600.00
Amount Certified		\$38,500.00
Balance remaining in Account		\$238,100.00
2023 NJDOT Grant North Avenue Pedestrian Safety Imp. Match		
Account # G-02-41-876-000	Balance in Account	\$ 25,000.00
Amount Certified		\$12,000.00
Balance remaining in Account		\$13,000.00
Total Amount Certified		\$50,500.00

RESOLUTION 2023-46
Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee to go into executive session immediately following the regular meeting to discuss litigation.

RESOLUTION 2023-47
GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE
UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S
"Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in
Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq., (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the (name of governing body) of the (name of local unit), hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

Mayor Vizzard asked for a motion to approve resolutions 2023-33 through 2023-47. A motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi. Roll call, all were in favor.

Mayor Vizzard asked for a motion to approve the bill list for the month of March as prepared by the CFO. A motion was made by Committeeman Klaudi to approve and was seconded by Committeeman Jamison. Roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mayor Vizzard stated that there is a land sale which will be conducted by Solicitor Seeley. Adjoining owners have been notified by certified mail. Advertised two times, March 3rd and March 10th. A deed will be prepared when the balance is paid in full.

Solicitor Seeley- As with all municipal land sales, this sale had a legal notice published that the township committee received a bid in the amount of \$2,500 for block 99, lot 8851, known as 524 Fern Rd. Is there anyone here interested in this property? The land sale will be by competitive bidding and will go to the highest bidder who must pay a 20% down payment tonight and the balance must be paid within 30 days of the date of the sale with a \$400 conveyance fee for the legal services for the preparation of the deed payable to Seeley Law LLC. Seeing how we have an interested party; you have made a bid of \$2,500. Is there anyone else

here that is interested in bidding on this property? Seeing no one else interested, \$2,500 going once, twice, sold for \$2,500 conditioned on the committee's approval.

Mayor Vizzard- Do I have a motion to accept sale for \$2,500 for block 99. Lot 885, known as 524 Fern Rd. Committeeman Klaudi made the amotion to approve, motion was seconded by Committeeman Jamison. Roll call, all were in favor.

Mayor asked for Reports from Officials. No Reports

Mayor Vizzard asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. Committeeman Jamison made the motion and was seconded by Committeeman Klaudi.

Adam Palmisciano- There was a motion which I believe was approved concerning a tax sale on 349 Fern Rd. I believe there was approval to vacate that is that correct? I just want to confirm that was approved.

Mayor Vizzard- That is a resolution that's on tonight and yes, it was approved.

Adam Palmisciano- Do I just contact Mr. Seeley to get the judgement or release?

Mayor Vizzard- Yes.

Robert Welch- I just want to give you an update. 1st, the Emergency Operation Plan was approved by the state, once I get it back, we'll have to pass a resolution on that. Also, you told me to keep you in the loop when it came to the school project, where they are trying to widen the road. They did a traffic survey last month. We met with the Board of Education; they did have some questions. I did forward this up to the County and the road department and I need to find out from him what are the next steps, again, I'll keep you updated.

Mayor Vizzard- Widen the road in what area?

Robert Welch- The school asked their security force along with myself and the state police to do a survey. We have noticed either in the morning or afternoon when parents come to pick up or drop off their kid, there is a lot of traffic only on North Ave. We have seen it firsthand, and it does cause a lot of safety issues. They have asked us to come up with some viable possibilities to fix that issue. Their goal was to widen that area to create a turning lane.

Mayor Vizzard- So this is a county responsibility and you're just keeping us informed.

Robert Welch- Yes Sir. Final thing, did you see that the FEMA go has been updated and there's been some e-mails sent out about that?

Nick DiCosmo- I got kind of a generic e-mail.

Robert Welch- Yes, I do still need information from you so I can help you with Mitigation.

Mayor Vizzard- I'm sorry, what is that?

Robert Welch- FEMA Go basically helps with the mitigation projects and the funding for them. If you go through FEMA, Go, that's what steps the government says you need to go through. They have grants but you have to go through FEMO Go to apply for the grants.

Mayor Vizzard- What grants are we going for through FEMA go.

Nick DiCosmo- Nothing at the moment.

Robert Welch- It's for future reference.

Nick DiCosmo- I may be mistaken but I think it was just a generic e-mail saying if you are signed up for FEMO go, the cycle updated or something like that.

Robert Welch- Along with they were restricting to certain people like it had to be primary government people. When you go for mitigation projects and you want funding, that's one of the primary ones you'll have to go through to get that funding.

Shawn Ronan- I just have a question on the school thing and the widening of the road. I know the township put out some money a few years back. There is an access road off of the bypass that goes behind the school. They put a plastic bridge in the ground, the grass still grows but it supports the fire trucks. That was to gain access when they did that addition. Rather than doing a whole big road project, why not utilize that access road around the back of the school, you can fit a whole lot of cars.

Mayor Vizzard- That is a good thought, in fact that is one of the issues we are looking at right now with Remington and Vernick as far as putting a walking path behind the school. We want to turn that access route into a walking path also. If the school district agrees with it, we haven't gone down there because right now we have a walking path going behind the ball fields and we want to extend that walking path down to the school. That roadway you are talking about, going behind the school, I think would be a great thing if we could incorporate as far as a fire district access to the school and also a walking path.

Shawn Ronan- If they utilize that for the people coming in ...inaudible.

Mayor Vizzard- That's actually phase II of the walking path, we have phase I of the path going around the ballfields and then going out to North Ave., going down toward the school but we do want to incorporate that access for the fire department as a walking path as well.

Robert Welch- To add to that, I did ask because Shawn brought that to my attention. I did take it to the school board and the principle. They pretty much shoot it down immediately. Their biggest concern was a safety and security issue.

Mayor Vizzard- In all honesty, the school board has no idea what we are looking for as far as the walking path, we have not approached the school board with this. We have intentions of approaching the school board with this, but we need to get phase I going. We are going to do phase I whether the school board is involved or not. Phase II does involve the school board so once these drawings are completed from Remington and Vernick, we are going to approach the school board and show them what it is we are trying to do. I understand the school board's concern, we aren't looking to put a roadway there, we are looking to put a walking path there. If there is a place for parents to bring their kids through that same area, safely, then we are all for that. But it's not going to stop us from making a walking path for the residents of Commercial Township.

Debbie Hollinger- You were talking about striping the intersections, will that be in conjunction with the county paving the new road

Mayor Vizzard and Nick DiCosmo, both confirmed it was in conjunction with the paving on Main St.

Debbie Hollinger- You may have to post the property across from the administration building. There is always a truck parked there by the fence. They are probably hunting.

Mayor Vizzard- Technically, by law it doesn't have to be posted. It is up to the person to find out who the owner is and ask permission. He did that and he's been denied. We don't have to post it.

James D'Ambrosio- I just want to thank the committee for approving Fire District III budget.

Mayor Vizzard – Just one quick question, the insurance?

James D'Ambrosio- I got an e-mail from the agent and he said they were talking about discounting it \$4,000.

Mayor Vizzard- Ok, good. So, you're willing to drop the budget down by a \$1,000 for fuel and the insurance is willing to drop it \$4,000.

James D'Ambrosio- It hasn't happened yet but he said they have been discussing it but he did say they are considering reducing by \$4,000.

Mayor Vizzard- We appreciate your efforts in trying to get your costs down. We are all hoping the insurance cost will go down,

Bill Henderson- What happens if there is a fire or emergency when all these parents are in the fire lane?

Mayor Vizzard- There is no fire lane at the school.

Bill Henderson- I thought that was the access road you were talking about behind the school.

Shawn Ronan- That is a fire lane.

Mayor Vizzard- We are looking to build a walking path there.

Shawn Ronan- I think he is referring to the road that was put in to allow us access.

Clint Miller- There is a road behind the school that was designed for the safety of the fire trucks.

Mayor Vizzard – But there is no road there now.

Shawn Ronan- It's a plastic grid in the ground. It's there so the truck doesn't sink. It's there but green grass grows over it.

Mayor Vizzard- Ok, but that's not going to stop us from building a walking path. We aren't changing anything that's there now. I don't understand your question.

Shawn Ronan- I think what he is saying is, if they let parents drop off and pick up on that road and something happens at that time, the fire trucks can't get in.

Mayor Vizzard- So what if they allow it, it's not changing anything. I don't understand what's changing.

Committeeman Klaudi- If there are parents there when there is a fire, the fire trucks can't use the access road.

Mayor Vizzard- Why wouldn't they be able to access the road.

Committeeman Klaudi- There would be cars there from the parents pick up the kids.

Discussion continued as to the use of the access road behind the school potentially for student pick up and the effect it may have should there be a fire.

Mayor Vizzard asked if there was anyone else, with none, Mayor asked for a motion to close to the public. Motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi.

Mayor moved on to additional considerations. Commercial Township with the Cumberland County Health Department will hold a free rabies clinic on April 1, 2023, at the Laurel Lake Fire Hall from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Also, The Commercial Township Recreation Committee is hosting an easter egg hunt and visit by the Easter bunny on April 1, 2023, at the Charles Sheppard Community Building beginning at 11:00 am.

Mayor Vizzard- If there are no other things to be discussed, I will mention and Gabby, you may want to put it out there, I will be hosting a talk with the mayor night at the Laurel Lake fire hall March 28th at 6pm. I will do my best to answer any questions you may have, if not we will address them at the next township meeting.

Mayor Vizzard – We do need to go into executive session tonight.

Solicitor Seeley- Just to let you know, it pertains to litigation. There needs to be a reason to go into executive session and the reason tonight is litigation. When we come back in, we will explain what was discussed to the best of our ability but for right now, we have to ask everyone to leave so this can be discussed amongst the committee. You can wait in the hallway and come back in when we are done.

When the meeting was set to reconvene, Mayor Vizzard went out and invited anyone waiting outside to re-join the meeting.

Mayor Vizzard asked for a motion to re-open the public meeting. A motion was made by Committeeman Jamison and seconded by Committeeman Klaudi.

Solicitor Seeley- Coming back in out of executive session, I would like to just give a brief summary of what was discussed in the executive session. 1. There is a lawsuit that has been filed against the township and some individuals in the township in regard to a previous lawsuit that was filed against a resident of the township. The Plaintiff is Deedra Brewer. We discussed having to file an answer with regard to this complaint which I will be completing talking to each named defendant and having filed with the court. The other issue was that there is updated training that has been mandated by the state of New Jersey which covers new regulations under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and it focuses on non-binary and neutral classifications of people.

Mayor Vizzard – Seeing that Tom has summed up our meeting, the mayor asked if there were any additional considerations. Committeeman Jamison offered a letter sent to the Committee. Mayor Vizzard read. “On Sunday, May 28th, 2023, John Westley Methodist Church will celebrate its 95th church anniversary which is a major milestone in the life of the Christian community in Port Norris and the surrounding Cumberland County. The anniversary committee is inviting you to be a part of this great celebration by placing a business page advertisement in the souvenir booklet that is being prepared for this occasion. Enclosed is the advertisement form for your convenience”. So does the township committee wish to have a full page ad in the amount of \$30 added to the John Westley Methodist Church 95th anniversary business page advertisement? Committeeman Klaudi agreed and so did Mayor Vizzard. The Deputy Clerk did roll call. Mr. Klaudi Yes, Mr. Jamison, abstained, Mayor Vizzard Yes.

Mayor Vizzard- With that if there is no other business, Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Committeeman Klaudi made the motion and was seconded by Committeeman Jamison.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Miller, Township Clerk